

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you to the Willits community and to the Willits Food Bank staff, volunteers and community partners for the splendid goodbye and send-off on Friday, March 29. I was surprised and deeply touched by all of the kind words and gifts.

In truth, I was the one who was and am thankful for the opportunity to serve such a high need as the food bank.

The new director Kim Tippit will begin on April 9. She can be reached at wckskim@gmail.com or 707 459-3333.

My very best regards to all involved in helping to keep the food bank running smoothly.

Ruthanne Volz, outgoing director, Willits Food Bank

Senior Center menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Lunches are \$8; \$75 for a 10 lunch card for Senior Center members.

Thursday, April 4: BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans, Corn, Corn Bread

Friday, April 5: Hot Dog, Chili, Chips

Monday, April 8: Western Bacon Burger, Chips, Pickle

Tuesday, April 9: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggies, Roll

Wednesday, April 10: Chili Mac, Veggies, Corn Bread

Thursday, April 11: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggies, Roll

Friday, April 12: Spinach Lasagna, Garlic Bread

Activities: Bingo every Friday night, 5 to 7 pm. Exercise class every weekday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Pancake Breakfast every second Sunday, 8 to 11 am.

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Joliana at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826.

A PROCLAMATION OF THE WILLITS CITY COUNCIL

Proclaiming April 14th--April 20th, 2024 as National Telecommunicator's/Dispatch Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of Police Officers is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our Police Officers is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the City of Willits Police Department's Emergency Communications Center (E-911); and

WHEREAS, Willits Public Safety Dispatchers also play a vital role during nights and weekends by notifying City staff of water, sewer, and street emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Dispatchers of the Willits Police Department have contributed substantially to calming callers in distress, helping countless of people in difficult situations, and assisting with the apprehension of criminals; and

WHEREAS, each City of Willits Police Dispatcher, Brittany Ponikvar-Dolney, Mike Stainbrook, Anthony Castillo, Debra Tonelli and Lori Keiser, have all exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Saprina Rodriguez, Mayor of the City of Willits, along with Vice Mayor Gerardo Gonzalez and Council Members Madge Strong, Larry Stranske, and Greta Kanne, do hereby proclaim the week of April 14th through April 20th as National Telecommunicator's/Dispatch Appreciation Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the CITY OF WILLITS to be affixed this 27th day of March 2024.

Saprina Rodriguez, Mayor

City Council of the City of Willits

Savings Bank adding ATM and Video Teller services in Laytonville

Submitted by SBMC

Savings Bank of Mendocino County is updating the Laytonville Banking Center drive-up with the latest technology, an ATM / ITM. Construction in the drive-up area will begin April 8, 2024. This new drive-up system will be installed on April 11, and will be available for use on April 12, once installation and setup are complete.

"We have wanted to bring an ATM to our Laytonville community for a long time, and I'm so pleased to see it become a reality," said Denise Roumbanis, Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer. "The machines we install these days are interactive teller machines, which means during video banking hours customers can complete transactions with a Savings Bank employee via live video or use it as an ATM with a debit card any time. It's a great service that we offer throughout our serving areas, and I'm so glad we're now providing it to our customers in Laytonville!"

Savings Bank employees in the Video Banking department are available to assist customers Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 5 pm; Fridays, 8 am to 6 pm; and Saturdays, 9 am to 2 pm. Simply touch the screen to talk with a teller during these hours or insert your debit card to use the machine as an ATM 7 days a week / 24 hours a day.

With the interactive teller machine, customers can make deposits without a deposit slip, withdraw cash, cash checks, transfer money between their accounts, and make a loan payment.

The Laytonville interactive teller machine will be the 15th machine that Savings Bank has installed in eight of their banking center locations throughout Lake and Mendocino counties.

Howard Memorial receives 2024 Women's Choice Award

Submitted by AHHM

Adventist Health Howard Memorial has been named one of America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care by the Women's Choice Award. The award signifies that Howard Memorial is in the top 7% of 4,728 U.S. hospitals offering emergency care services.

Each year, there are more than 130 million emergency room visits in the U.S. Emergency departments continue to be an essential part of the healthcare system as they provide fast, life- or-limb saving care to millions each year. Unlike other hospital departments that interact with the same patient and families for an extended period, ER staff typically has one patient encounter, often when anxiety and fear is at its peak.

"Emergency departments can be very stressful environments, particularly for the elderly or a mother with a sick or injured child," said Delia Passi, founder and CEO of the Women's Choice Award. "Women make or influence 94% of all healthcare decisions for themselves and others. They want to be confident that they know which emergency departments in their communities will take care of their loved ones quickly and with the best possible care. Knowing the Women's Choice Award has already placed their seal of excellence on a hospital is immediate validation that they have made the right decision, easing their concern during a very stressful time."

The methodology for America's Best Hospitals for Emergency Care award is unique in that it combines Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey results with primary research about women's healthcare preferences. The award recognizes excellence in emergency care, based on several "process of care" measures focused on time patients spent in the emergency department, including total time spent in the ER and percent of ER patients who left without being seen.

Criteria for selecting Howard Memorial as one of the Best Hospitals also included the percentage of patients who came to the ER with stroke symptoms who received brain scan results within 45 minutes of arrival. Also included this year were hospitals that performed well in responding to patients showing symptoms of severe sepsis, a very dangerous condition. The awarded hospitals represent those with emergency departments with average measure times in the highest 25th to 50th percentile in the country. Additional points were provided for the various trauma center levels.

The award is especially significant given that long waits and high crowding can negatively impact patient outcomes, including patients leaving without receiving medical treatment, longer overall length of hospital stay, and an increase in mortality rates.

"Howard Memorial not only performed well clinically with regard to emergency care measures, but they also have a high recommendation rating, which is very important to women when it comes to health-related decisions," says Passi.

Howard Memorial is one of 528 award recipients representing the hospitals that have met the highest standards for emergency care in the U.S. by the Women's Choice Award.

"We're very grateful to be recognized nationally for the emergency care we provide at our hospital to the city of Willits and the many other neighbors across Northern California that surround us in our rural communities," says Linda Givens, administrator for Adventist Health Howard Memorial. "We strive for the very best patient-centered care, and we're honored that our commitment and dedication to our community has garnered this award and acknowledgement."

For the full list of the Best Hospitals for Emergency Care, please visit <https://womenschoiceaward.com/best-emergency-care>



Easter Sunrise Service

Agape Bible Church and Willits Baptist Church congregations attend early morning outdoor sermon

On a blistery, cold and foggy morning, the pilgrims made their way to the top of the hill to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded Christians of all denominations, sing hymns, and listen to the words of Steve Thrift, pastor of the Agape Bible Church. After the service, they enjoyed a warm breakfast as they discussed the day's service as well as their plans for the remainder of the Easter Sunday.

The thick fog cooled the air and made it difficult for the congregants to clearly see past a few feet. Although invited to bring lawn chairs, few took advantage of the opportunity to be seated, rather choosing to stand to hear the music and sermon on the hill, in front of the approximately 20-foot metallic cross.

Even through the chill, the warmth of the attendees was evident in their conversations and greetings as they awaited the service to begin. Thankfully, they did not have to wait long as Nick Conley climbed the hill and began to play his guitar to the songs, which were printed in a handout so that everyone could sing along. He led them in such songs as "Cornerstone," "Living Hope," and "Glorious Day." The temperature seemed to warm as their voices blended and their expressions evinced their strong beliefs in the tenets of their religion.

Next, Thrift took the steps up the hill to begin his sermon. "Good morning," he began. "It's Resurrection Day. He is risen. As I prepared for this message today, I thought a lot about Resurrection Day, and one of the things that occurred to me, that I think is a very appropriate question for believers and non-believers alike, is 'how important is Resurrection Day?' Why is the resurrection so important? This is a question that I believe is one of the most important questions you could ask. Not just for this morning. So that is my question for you all."

His sermon, being held on Easter, centered on the meaning and importance of the resurrection of Jesus to Christianity, as it was the holiday which celebrates the historical event which they believe in.

"The first reason why I think the resurrection is so important to us is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves there is life after death,"

continued Thrift to choruses of hallelujahs and amens. "Jesus' resurrection proves that he defeated death. Over 500 witnesses saw him and talked with him after he had been dead for three days. That's a pretty important reason to love the resurrection. Number two, Jesus' resurrection validates, confirms and proves the prophecies of the Bible, including Jesus' own words because he told his disciples, many times, that he would be raised from the dead.

"Listen to some of his words from the Gospel of Matthew: Chapter 12, Jesus said 'Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.' Chapter 16 says 'from that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and raised up on the third day.' In chapter 17, it says, 'while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'the son of man is going to be delivered into the hands of men and they will kill him and he will be raised on the third day,' and that's just Matthew's gospel."

Quoting from Corinthians and Matthew, Thrift made the case for the validity of the resurrection and how it affects mankind. "I'm going to go back to First Corinthians, 15. Verse 14 says, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile. You are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for his life, we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men, but Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. The first fruits of those that have fallen asleep.' The term 'first fruits' is an agrarian term and a biblical concept that the first fruit to be harvested is the very best fruit."

After the sermon, Nick Conley played a couple more songs and David Willoughby of the Willits Baptist Church gave the closing prayer, after which most of the attendees walked down the hill to the barn of Bruce and Linda Burton, who had generously allowed the sermon to take place on his property. A buffet-style breakfast was served with a plentiful selection of fresh fruits, quiches, muffins and donuts, amongst other foods.

As the fog lifted, the sun began to peek out and it became a beautiful morning.



At top, from left: Pastor Steve Thrift addresses approximately 75 early-morning congregants. Nick Conley leads the attendees in songs and hymns, which they follow in their printouts. Nick Conley gets ready to lead the united congregation in the songs found in the printout. Above: Agape Church Pastor Steve Thrift gives a sermon about the importance of the resurrection. At left: People follow along and participate in the songs being led by Nick Conley. Below: Bruce Burton, who generously invited the congregations to his property, and Pastor Jim Semisch of Calvary Chapel participate in the service.



At left: Congregants of all ages participate in the services. Below, from left: Betty and Neil Banham, Agape Church members, joyfully await the beginning of the service. Pastor Steve Thrift's mother shares her song sheet with her granddaughter. Rick Williams of the Brooktrails Board of Directors found it easier to sit down and be comfortable and warm during the service.

Photos by Mathew Caine



The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Willits Weekly prints letters and commentaries about Willits and Third District issues, activities, events, and people. We print letters to the editor from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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JOHN FORD RANCH

RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF

No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California

Willits Weekly's Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

1		2				5		3
		4		9				
	7			6	2			1
6	5					7		4
	1		7	2	8	9		6
	9	7		5			1	
7			2	4			8	
9				8	7	1	3	2
		1	6			4		

Level: Beginner

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

HOW TO SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

HONOR AND PRIDE WORD SEARCH

C I H V E H S I Y T R R B F Y U I B R M
Y A S S E L R A E F U S I A T U S N K L
P E P D E T L I D C O U S I M V U A F F L O
U B G R G C P O O E T H N K D U P B A S
R U D D E B E E D G M K M C R F E L H R V
M S V B B P V D G E L G C B C N R S K B
P O D M P S K L E T A N E L L A F L S V
L L Y O N E V C R E H E Y T C G H O C D
A D U S U R I E M R Y H I T L I L M S K
T I D M E F B G N Y H I T L S K N A H T
O E A U I M M B L A E V R E S B O H U U
O R G R E A A N T A E C V F F D O O A K
N N C M R F A O H F Y I B I H E G A E M O
L A E O M V V B A N B R K V P Y N N G R
S R N B E E P R R N P K O O R M R L I U
G O U D M T C A D V F H E M F E M I E M
H A B U O E C N C O R K N I E Y S S A M
P T B I R R G C Y S E V U O M V T U N
N O L C Y A I H K E M S E O R E H O F A
L R D C E N C N G A L F C V T I E M O F

BRANCH	FEARLESS	MILITARY	SERVICE
CEMETERY	FLAG	OBSERVED	SOLDIER
DRAFT	HEROES	PLATOON	SOMBER
DUTY	HONOR	REMEMBER	THANKS
ENLIST	MEMORIAL	RESPECT	TOUR
FALLEN	MEMORY	SACRIFICE	VETERAN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11				12					13		
14							15		16	17	
	18							19		20	
			21		22				23		
			24		25	26	27		28		
			29		30			31		32	
			33		34		35				
36	37	38		39		40		41			
42			43			44		45			
46								47		48	
49				50	51			52	53	54	55
	56					57		58			59
			60					61			
										63	

CLUES ACROSS

1. A minute amount (British)
5. Mystical or magical
11. Shortening
14. More satisfying
15. Other side
18. Philippine island
19. More unnatural
21. Mutual savings bank
23. Famed designer Chanel
24. Makes less wild
28. At some prior time
29. The cops who investigate the cops
30. Immune system response
32. Distress signal
33. Engine additive
35. 'No Scrubs' trio
36. Very fast airplane
39. A reward (archaic)
41. Commercial
42. Spots where golfers start
44. Polite form of address (Indian)
46. French river
47. Reduce the light

CLUES DOWN

1. Possesses
2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. Clip
5. In a way, misleads
6. Human gene
7. The Golden State (abbr.)
8. Lizard genus
9. Parasites that invade the skin
10. Took apart
12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
13. S. California town
16. Suffix plural
17. Painting technique
20. Small Eurasian deer
22. Mr. T character
25. Microsoft
26. Shock therapy
27. Able to be sold
29. A doctrine
31. These three follow A
34. Pulse
36. Quantitative fact
37. Doctor ___; children's book author
38. Hebrew calendar month
40. Designated hitter
43. Northern Poland village
45. A passport is one form
48. Hand (Spanish)
50. Hit with the open hand
51. Actor Idris
53. Shakespeare's nickname 'The ___'
54. Northern U.S. lake
55. Marvin and Horsley are two
57. Soak
58. Partner to cheese
59. Expression of disappointment
61. College dorm employee

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE LOG

March 11 to March 17

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **59 incidents** in this 7-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

March 11

2:51 pm: **YOUNG, Ryan Joseph** (31) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of violation of probation.

10:12 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

10:00 pm: **WARE, Tiffany Malyn** (43) of Willits was contacted in the 700 block of South Main Street. She was arrested on misdemeanor charges of fighting or challenging another to fight in a public place.

10:00 pm: Officers conducted a stop in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

11:39 pm: **SPENCE, Laselle Yvonne** (44) of Willits was contacted in the 1700 block of Elm Lane following a disturbance. She was arrested on felony charges of domestic battery and false imprisonment.



Above: Laselle Spence of Willits. Below: Larry Sutherland of Willits.



March 12

No incidents to report.

March 13

10:28 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

2:56 pm: Officers conducted a stop near the intersection of Holly Street and South Main Street and issued a citation.

4:23 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

5:09 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

8:44 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

March 14

5:51 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 5000 block of South Main Street.

9:40 am: **LANGENDERFER, Brandon Lee** (30) of Laytonville was contacted in the 500 block of South Main Street. He was arrested pursuant to 242 PC (Battery), on felony charges of carrying a concealed dirk or dagger, and on misdemeanor charges of disobeying a court order and possession of a controlled substance.

8:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of Brookside Drive.

10:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of East Commercial Street and Madden Lane.

March 15

8:30 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

12:10 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

3:28 pm: **EDWARDS, Charles Allen** (35) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of East Hill Road and Haehl Creek Drive. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner, April 26

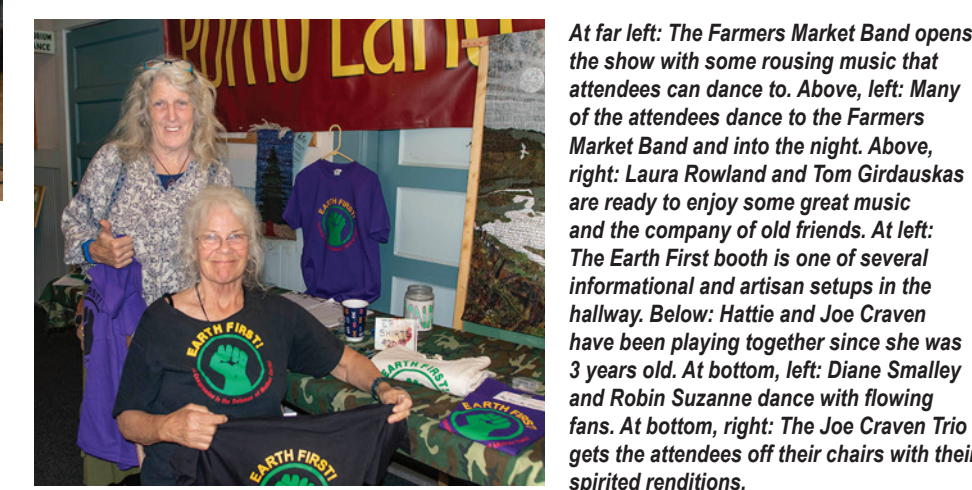
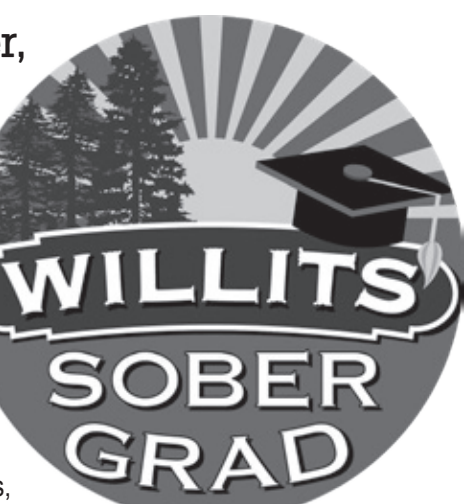
Submitted by Willits Sober Grad

Please support Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser: It's time for the BEST tri-tip dinner of the year!! Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner pickup is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Willits High School Ag Farm (behind the high school, 299 North Main Street).

Dinner – a complete meal for 4 – includes Marinated & Grilled Tri Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Emandal Bread, Cookies from Kemmy's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose donated by Flowers by Annette.

Tickets are \$60 for the dinner for 4, and are pre-sale only. Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear. You can also get your ticket from your favorite Class of 2024 graduate, or call Karen Thiel, WHS, 707-459-7700, ext. 1504 or Carrie Lambert, WSG, 707-671-6173.

Willits Sober Grad is a profit organization that works each year from September through June to raise funds which are used to put on a safe, sober party for the graduating Seniors of the Willits Community Schools on Graduation Night. These schools include: Willits Charter School, Willits High School, Sanhedrin High School, LaVida Charter School. Since its inception in 1986, no High School Senior has died on Graduation Night.



At far left: The Farmers Market Band opens the show with some rousing music that attendees can dance to. Above, left: Many of the attendees dance to the Farmers Market Band and into the night. Above, right: Laura Rowland and Tom Girdauskas are ready to enjoy some great music and the company of old friends. At left: The Earth First booth is one of several informational and artisan setups in the hallway. Below: Hattie and Joe Craven have been playing together since she was 3 years old. At bottom, left: Diane Smalley and Robin Suzanne dance with flowing fans. At bottom, right: The Joe Craven Trio gets the attendees off their chairs with their spirited renditions.

Pool Club

Local social club holds concert to raise money for upkeep of therapy pool

"Bobbie Recio owned a piece of property on East Valley Road with an indoor pool, a therapy pool which was four feet deep," explained Blue Zones Outreach Coordinator Michelle Hutchins, who organized a fundraising event, along with Da Grand Pooba of Cosmic Pickle Productions, in order to preserve this useful community asset.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
willitsweekly@gmail.com

"She had a whole group of friends that she organized to have water aerobics classes there all the time. When she passed away, she bequeathed her pool to the group, who has formed a social club that now organizes water aerobics classes three days a week for people who have had surgeries and have gone through their therapy classes and can benefit from the mobility of moving through water. They run four classes a day, three days a week.

"The pool was designed and built for a private use," said Hutchins. "The functionality of the pool does not support full public use, which is why it is only open three days a week. On off days, the pool water can clean and regenerate so that the water is appropriate for people to come in the next day.

"What we're trying to do is fundraise for an ozinator and a chlorinator so that the pool can be cleaner," Hutchins explained, "so we can open the use of the pool to more people, so that even Adventist Health could refer people after they've gone through the therapy process, if they could benefit from the pool. Or other folks in the community who have also had surgeries in other areas, that would benefit from that kind of therapy."

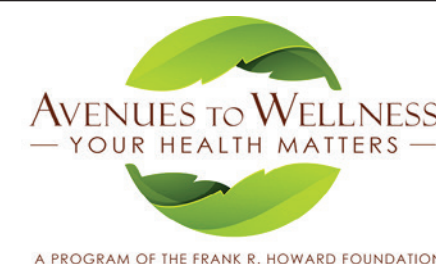
The fundraising event for "The Pond Club" on April 1 – which some called April Pool's Day – featured music performances by Joe Craven, along with his very talented daughter, Hattie, and Jordan Feinstein. "Joe Craven, just by himself, is probably one of the best musicians I have met over the last 50 years," said Pooba.

"He's beyond just a talented musician. He's a true showman," said Pooba. "He worked with Barnum and Bailey Circus for years, as well as his daughter. Hattie picked up being a songwriter and a musician, and has been singing with Joe since she was 3 years old. She's now 23. She has the vocal range of Joni Mitchell but with the stage presence of Linda Ronstadt. Hattie is Hattie. She's one-of-a-kind, just like her dad. Also with the trio, Jordan Feinstein is the guru of keys, out of San Francisco, and is known for his funk. He plays some Grateful Dead

Read the rest of **Pond** Over on page 9



At left: Hattie Craven has been playing with her father since she was very young. Above: Bruce Yoxall is a Pool Club board member and executor of the estate of Bobbie Recio.



Bereavement Support Group

This facilitated 8-week group provides an opportunity to learn the symptoms of grief, as well as to recognize the individual nature of its expression and duration. With a fuller understanding of the grief process and effective ways to cope, we can find meaning and move forward.

Beginning Thursday May 2

Time: 2-4pm

Willits Senior Center

To register call:

Suzanne at (707)456-9676

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Space is Limited: Register NOW



Suzanna Wilson and Suzanne Picetti-Johnson Group Facilitators

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Worship Service - 5:00 p.m.
Pastor Kris Strickland
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Church of Christ
"What must we do to be saved?"
Acts 2:37
1095 S. Main St., Willits
(next to Super 8)
(707) 459-5023
Sunday Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service-
6:7-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-
7-8:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
265 Margie Drive
Willits, CA 95490
ALL ARE WELCOME
Sacrament Meeting
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedom
• A University for Soul
• Spiritual Living Courses
• Spiritual Discussions
• ECK Light & Sound Services
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www.eckankar.org

Grace Community Church
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Modified Worship Service
10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended
for now.
For appointments call:
(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandannadam
Mass times:
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Saturday-5:30 p.m.
Sunday-9:00 a.m. - English
10:30 a.m. - Spanish
Confessions on Saturday
4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
Or by appointment at
707-459-2252
https://santhonywillits.org/
santhonywillits@gmail.com
We welcome All Walks of Faith!

St. Francis Episcopal Church
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-272-0177
Sunday Service - 10 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom
Call for information.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunneau

St. John Lutheran Church
Church Service:
Sunday 10:00 to 11:00
(707) 459-2988
24 Mill Creek Drive
ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church
707-459-5714
Friendly, open worship
Saturdays
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Transmission Available.
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
399 W. Mendocino Ave.
All are welcome!

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A place to find comfort
where all are welcome
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Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
286 School St. (at Pine)
707-459-2855
wumc@willitsonline.com
www.willitsumc.org
Facebook: facebook/willits umc
If you want to be included in
this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
april@willitsweekly.com

What's Happening Around Town

Thursday, April 4

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, April 5

'Art Under Twenty' opens at WCA: The 25th anniversary exhibit of student art from Willits High School, plus Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School, is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in April. Show opens Friday, April 5, with opening reception scheduled for Friday, April 12, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Saturday, April 6

Spring Saturday Crafts at the Library: Join us at the Willits Library each Saturday in April for a craft to celebrate the spring season. 11 am to noon. Starting with Sunday, April 6: Flower Pot Decoration; Sunday, April 13: DIY Bird Feeders; and Sunday, April 20: All ages welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, (707) 459-5908.

Free Print Workshop at WCA: "Prints for Collective Liberation" with Mariangela Le Than Saturday, April 6 from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Participants will be shown how to create their own multi color block prints. Children welcome with adult supervision. No registration necessary - just show up!

Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner, April 26

Please support Sober Grad's biggest fundraiser: It's time for the BEST tri-tip dinner of the year! Sober Grad Tri-Tip Dinner pickup is set for Friday, April 26, from 4 to pm, at the Willits High School Ag Farm (behind the high school, 299 North Main Street).

Dinner - a complete meal for 4 - includes Marinated & Grilled Tri Tip, Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Emmental Bread, Cookies from Kemmy's Pies, and a Beautiful Rose donated by Flowers by Annette.

Mark your calendar for April 26, and get your ticket! Tickets are available at 101 Trailer & RV Supply and Monkey Wrench Men & Womens Wear. You can also get your ticket from your favorite Class of 2024 graduate, or call Karen Thiel, WHS , 707-459-7700, ext. 1504 or Carrie Lambert, WSG, 707-671-6173.

CLEAN CANVAS
JOIN THE CITY OF WILLITS FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL
SATURDAY APRIL 27 2024
11AM - 3PM
BUD SNIDER CITY PARK
FREE FOR ALL AGES & ARTISTS
JOIN US IN THE PARK to paint sidewalks with chalk, learn about litter abatement, how to reduce, re-use, and recycle, and enter into an Earth Day theme art competition to win prizes!
Snacks, beverages, and art materials will be available.
COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION BY APRIL 19TH
ARTIST, VENDOR, AND SPONSOR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL
MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND COLLABORATORS!

NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
57 East Commercial Street - Willits
707-459-6660
www.noyotheatre.com

Free Admission First Saturday Family Fun at the Museum:

Join us at the Mendocino County Museum for FREE admission on First Saturday Spring Family Fun Days, starting Saturday, April 6, 1 to 3 pm, at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. In addition to family-friendly activities inspired by our exhibit "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County," hands-on activity stations and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt available daily, First Saturday Family Fun Days feature a workshop on Making Throw 'n' Grow Seed Balls to grow your own wildflowers. Program and Museum attendance are free for our First Saturday Free Admission Days. Also Saturday, May 4, and Saturday, June 1. All ages are welcome. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov, or 707-234-6365.

Skunk Train's Whiskey Train:

Departing from the Willits Depot, the first-ever Skunk Train Whiskey Trains are set for Saturdays, April 6 and May 25 from 5 to 7 pm. "An evening filled with laughter, fine whiskey, and jaw-dropping views along the enchanting Willits line." Featuring four tastings of Charbay Distillery's finest boutique premium whiskeys, proudly crafted right here in the heart of Mendocino County. Plus keepsake tasting glass, delicious charcuterie plate for all. Visit www.skunktrain.com/whiskey-train to buy tickets, \$119 adults only (enter your zip code for a hefty local discount).

2nd annual Spring Fling in Laytonville: Laytonville Long Valley Lioness Club presents the 2nd annual Spring Fling benefit for Laytonville High School students, Saturday, April 6 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits



Thursday, April 11

Become a Museum Volunteer: Prospective volunteers are invited to join us Thursday, April 11, from 10 to 11 am for a morning coffee break! Meet staff and current volunteers and learn about the exciting opportunities available at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendocinocounty.gov/museum, museum@mendocinocounty.gov or 707-234-6365.

Willits Farmers Market: The weekly farmers market is indoors for the winter season Thursday afternoons at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Thursdays, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Local produce, local meat, farm fresh eggs, delicious meals, tasty treats, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more. Tobin's Tales, story time at the farmers market, from 3:30 to 4 pm, with Library Assistant Tobin reading selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

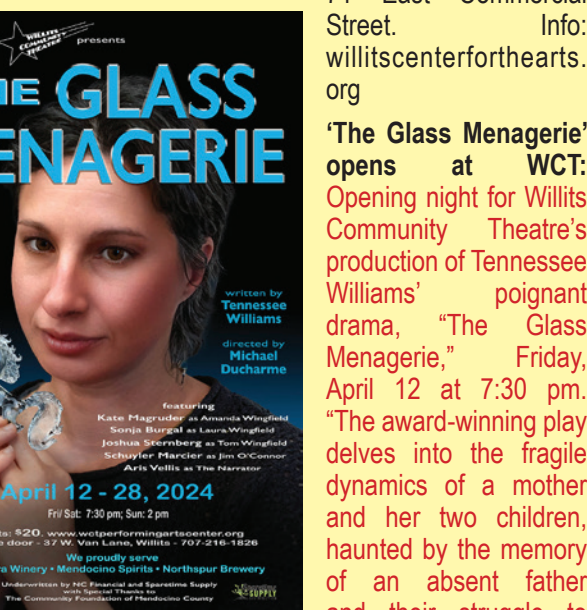
'Menopause - The Easy Way': Part of the Natural Healthcare Speaker Series, this free Women's Circle, "Menopause - The Easy Way," is set for Thursday, April 11, from 5:30 to 7 pm. "Exchange insights and tips about how to navigate menopause, the easy way!" At Quantum Level Health Studio, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, room 4. Please RSVP at 707-371-6103 as space is limited.

selected juvenile picture books. All are welcome.

Friday, April 12

'Art Under Twenty' reception at WCA: The 25th anniversary exhibit of student art from Willits High School, plus Willits Charter School and Potter Valley High School, is featured at Willits Center for the Arts in April. The opening reception for the show is set for Friday, April 12, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Gallery hours at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street, are Friday through Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Art Talk on Neoclassicism: Willits Center for the Arts presents its next Art Talk, on Neoclassicism and the groundbreaking contributions of three influential artists: Ingres, Canova, and Jacques-Louis David. Art historian and lecturer Gary Martin will lead the discussion, "accompanied by projected art images, providing attendees with an enlightening exploration into how these artists revolutionized the perception of the world through their profound artistic endeavors." Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm, free admission. WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: willitscenterforthearts.org



'The Glass Menagerie' opens at WCT: Opening night for Willits Community Theatre's production of Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," Friday, April 12 at 7:30 pm. "The award-winning play delves into the fragile dynamics of a mother and her two children, haunted by the memory of an absent father and their struggle to escape their suffocating circumstances." Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm, through April 28. Tickets for all shows are \$20 and available at the door or online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org.

Friends Anonymous at Shanachie: "a Punk Rock band from Northern California, who like to plug in, go loud and proud, and put on a good time." Friday, April 12 at 8 pm, at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street.

Saturday, April 13

Sit-N-Sew: Second Saturdays at the Willits Library, April 13 this month, from 1 to 5 pm. Drop in - bring your sewing project and have fun. 390 East Commercial Street. Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Free Print Workshop at WCA: "Intro to Zine Making" with Mariangela Le Than. Saturday, April 13 from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East

Commercial Street. "Come make your own mini zine. Drawing not necessary - Being urself is!" Suggested age 12+ No registration necessary.

Behind the Scenes Tour at the Museum: April is the last month of this year's Behind the Scenes Tours series at the Mendocino County Museum. Tour areas rarely open to the public, including the Museum collections storage facility, see special exhibits and artifacts new to the collection, and view the new exhibit, "In the Field: Exploring Botany in Mendocino County." Tours are set for Saturday, April 13, from 2 to 3 pm, and Tuesday, April 16, from 2 to 3 pm. Recommended for adults and children age 8 and older. Included with regular admission. Space is limited; to reserve a space, email museum@mendocinocounty.gov or call 707-234-6365.

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Sunday, April 14

'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT: Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," continues at Willits Community Theatre, Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm. See Friday, April 12 listing for more details.

Tennessee Williams' poignant drama 'The Glass Menagerie' at WCT, April 12-28

By Steve Hellman for WCT

Tennessee Williams' poignant drama, "The Glass Menagerie," will show at the Willits Community Theatre April 12 through 28. The award-winning play delves into the fragile dynamics of a mother and her two children, haunted by the memory of an absent father and their struggle to escape their suffocating circumstances.

Central to the drama is Amanda Wingfield, a faded remnant of Southern gentility who now lives in a dingy St. Louis apartment with her son, Tom, and her daughter, Laura, who has a physical handicap and debilitating shyness. The father has left home, while young Tom supports his mother and sister with a shoe-factory job he finds unbearable.

When Amanda convinces Tom to bring home from his workplace a "gentleman caller" for Laura, the illusions that Tom, Amanda, and Laura have each created in order to make life bearable collapse about them.

"The Glass Menagerie" is a "memory play" told by the character of Tom as events that happened in his youth. Director Michael Ducharme has chosen to add a fifth narrator character, an older Tom Wingfield, to make it clear that these are memories. Starring in the production are Kate Magruder, Sonja Bursal, Joshua Sternberg, Schuyler Marcier and Aris Velis.

Opening night is Friday, April 12 at 7:30 pm. Shows will continue through April 28 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, with Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets for all shows are \$20 and available online at: www.wctperformingartscenter.org or at the door. Support for WCT events is provided by NC Financial Group, Sparetime Supply and the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.

Willits Walk & Talk
Wednesdays & Fridays
10:00 am - 10:30 am
Join the Willits Branch staff for a 20-30 minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation.
We will meet at the front entrance of the library.
All ages are welcome.
Mendocino County Library
Willits Branch Library
390 E Commercial St
Willits, California 95490 | 707-459-5908
www.mendolibrary.org

Storytime at The Willits Library
Tuesdays - Friday
10:30 am - 11:00 am

COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire'

The Story: It seems the planet Earth is hollow. There's a second world, an inner Earth, deep below the surface. It is monster-filled. Kong lives there. He's just hanging out. Being a giant ape makes for a lonely life, so Kong is a bit weepy. He has a bit of a temper and breaks things. Kong does have human friends, kind of.

Meanwhile back on the surface, Godzilla lives in Rome and is surprisingly chill. The ginormous fire-breather has a nest of a sort in the Roman Coliseum. It does seem cozy though lacking in facilities and perhaps a bit cramped. He sleeps curled up on his side. Like Kong, he doesn't have any friends either, but there are humans keeping tabs on him. Godzilla, too, just waits.

There are some not-so-friendly monsters with bad attitudes who appear from time-to-time and it seems Godzilla exists to kick their butts. Where do all these monsters come from? Well, if it isn't one thing it's another because (no spoilers) it seems there's another world even deeper in the Earth. I'll leave the rest to yours and the filmmakers' imaginations. Kong and Godzie have to save the world as we know it. And there's your movie.

My Thoughts: Let me cut to the chase. I've seen a couple Kong/Godzilla pairings; this is the best. The monsters are gross and do gross things like sucking the guts out of dead, ripped-apart giant water snakes. And that, my friends, is high quality gross. I watched it in flat screen 2D normal mode, and I had such a good time that I intend to go back and watch it again - in 3D - with a big candy bar in my fist.

Parents: The bigger the monsters, the bigger the thrills. I think it's too scary for little ones. Judging by my recollections, 10-year-olds, especially boys (and probably some girls), will like this sort of thing, and actually thrive.

Willisian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Ongoing Events at the Willits Library

Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street.
Info: www.mendolibrary.org or 459-5908.

Story Time: Tuesday through Friday each week, 10:30 to 11 am. "Start your morning listening to a story. Join us in the children's area of the library."

Penny University Coffee Klatch: Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. We will meet in the Willits Library meeting room to discuss various topics while enjoying a "cup of joe." Topics will range and will be announced ahead of time."

LEGO Club: Tuesdays, now 4 to 6:30 pm. "It is LEGO time at the library. Bring your imagination and start building."

Willits Walk and Talk: Join the Willits Branch Library staff for a 20- to 30-minute walk around the neighborhood. Come enjoy a little bit of exercise as well as some pleasant conversation. All ages are welcome. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am; meet at the front entrance to the library, 390 East Commercial

Open Lab / Study Hall: Don't have a decent place to study? Come to the Willits Branch Library's meeting room every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm for the new Open Lab / Study Hall. The library has plenty of helpful resources including public Wi-Fi, computers with internet and word processing capabilities, and databases to aid you with your research, plus friendly and helpful staff ready to point you in the right direction.

Calming Coloring at the Library: Thursdays, from 5 to 6 pm at the Willits Library. An hour of quiet with coloring pages. Supplies provided. All ages welcome.

Chess for Teens: On Fridays, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Teens, ages 12-18 are invited; all skill levels welcome. Library staff will be there to help beginners and those who want to learn. Light refreshments provided.

Tech Help: Now every Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm: Is your computer on the friz? Want to install a new app? Bring your tech questions and get help from the library's tech savvy volunteer

Spinning & Knitting: Every Saturday at the library; from 1 to 4:30 pm. "All skill levels welcome!"

Shanachie Pub Ongoing Events

Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street
Saturday Scramble: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 3 to 6 pm, hosted by Tyler B. Bring any instrument you can play and sign up to perform a 15-minute set with other local musicians. "Meet new musicians, discover new genres and explore your creativity!"

Bluegrass String Jam: Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month starting at 3 pm - welcomes all Bluegrass musicians! An official jam for the California Bluegrass Association, "so you never know which members from out of the area may drop in!"

Wednesday Open Mic Night: Shanachie Pub presents its popular Open Mic Night every Wednesday, featuring an eclectic array of local musicians and performers from around the world. Pub opens at 3 pm, and from opening until 7 pm, you can be entered for the lottery. Lottery determines order from which you pick your 20 minute time slot starting at 7:20 pm



At top: WHS softball varsity poses after their 10-run victory; from left, Coach Guy Vaccaro, Mia Chavez, Alexandra Ramos, Gloria Gutierrez, Ava Holmen, Mariah Rodriguez, Addie Jones, Lisa Arkelian, Elena Arkelian, Jazmarie Henson, Kaylee Campbell, Abigail Sherf and Coach Ray Moon. Below, left: Sophia Whitman gets low in her stance to match with her opponent. Below, right: Mia Chavez uses a headlock to pin her opponent in the third-place match. At bottom, left: Alexandra Ramos is up to bat. At bottom, right: Mia Chavez catches the pitch made by Lisa Arkelian.



At right, below: Macy Harbour takes down her opponent with a strategically used head and arm.

Payton Shull uses her skills to cradle her opponent for the pin.

Lisa Arkelian uses her well-practiced skills to pitch to the opposing team.

At bottom, left: WHS JV softball team poses for a picture after their big win; from left, top row, Abigail Sherf, Coach Guy Vaccaro, Coach Adam Sherf, Brodey Lamprich, Izabella Sims; bottom row, Nina Corona, Ariana Vasquez and Vada Morgan.

At bottom, right: The BGMS wrestling team shows off their third-place trophy; from left, Coach Matt Moratti, Coach Ryan Hulsey, Payton Shull, Chey Thurman, Paizley Dockins, Lilly Glass, Allaya Knight, Sophia Whitman, Mia Chavez and Coach Wayne Shull.



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GRAND OPENING
 Saturday, April 20th, 2024
 8 am - 6 pm

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 The Gardener's Pantry
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The Best of Lake and Mendocino presented by Bicoastal Media is a vote-based contest for individuals and businesses that serve Lake County, CA, and Mendocino County, CA. Nominations are provided by the community and after the nomination period is completed, the names of nominated businesses in each of the categories are finalized and make up the official Best of Lake and Mendocino voting ballot. The audience can then vote on one choice in each category. Voters are allowed to nominate without limits and once the voting period has begun, one vote per category per 24-hour period is allowed. Listing in this publication and/or award is not a guarantee of future investment success. This recognition should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client. No compensation was provided directly or indirectly by the recipient for participation or in connection with obtaining or using the third-party rating or award.

LEGAL NOTICES

WW482
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on the **Financial Plan for Services - Budget, effective July 1, 2024.**

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed Financial Plan for Services - Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the proposed Financial Plan for Services - Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 will be effective on July 1, 2024. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 4, 2024

WW481
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on revisions to the **Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment.**

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its time of publishing. At this time and place, interested persons including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may mail comments or appear personally at the public hearing.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment would increase by 3%, as approved by the voters, and effective July 1, 2024. Information on the proposed revision is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 4, 2024

WW480
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on the **Sewer Standby Charge for Fiscal Year 2024-25.**

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its time of publishing. At this time and place, interested persons including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may mail comments or appear personally at the public hearing.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the Sewer Standby Charge would remain the same as it has been since November 1996. Information requests can be made at the Public Hearing and during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 4, 2024

WW478
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct Public Hearings on revisions to the water base and volumetric/water usage rates, effective July 1, 2024.

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely (hybrid meeting) at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its publishing. At or prior to this time, any interested person, including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may appear personally or submit a written presentation on any matter relating to the proposed revisions.

The General Manager will submit a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 based on increased water base and volumetric/water usage rates. The monthly water base rate would increase by 1.4% to \$62.37; the volumetric/water usage rate would increase by 9.5% to \$0.04112 per cubic foot. The proposed increases are necessary based on the increased cost to provide services.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for review during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 4, 2024

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 \$75,878 - \$93,142

Legal Secretary I/II
 \$38,563 - \$54,392

Mental Health Clinician I/II
 \$60,340 - \$84,843

Public Safety Dispatcher
 \$53,102 - \$64,542

Retirement Specialist I
 \$44,844 - \$54,516

Supervising Public Health Nurse
 \$110,822 - \$134,721

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.gov/jobs
 EOE

WW479
BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District will conduct a Public Hearing on the **Water Availability Charge for Fiscal Year 2024-25.**

The public hearing will be held in person and remotely on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Information on remote access to the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda at its time of publishing. At this time and place, interested persons including all people owning property in Brooktrails Township Community Services District, may mail comments or appear personally at the public hearing.

When approved by the Board of Directors, the Water Availability Charge would remain the same as it has been since November 1996. Information requests can be made at the Public Hearing and during normal business hours at the Township Office, 24860 Birch Street, Willits, California 95490 or by request from btcsd@btcsd.org.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Tamara Alaniz, General Manager/
 Secretary to the Board of Directors
 Publication Date: April 4, 2024

The rest of Pond | From page 5

stuff. He's all across the board.

"Richard Jeske and his Farmers Market Band, who have been getting better and better, are like a fine wine, aging very well. The band members are Dennis Hadley (accordion), Deanne Bunny (percussion and vocals), Tootreese [Jeske] (guitar and vocals), Chris Cichacki (mandolin), and Don Willis (bass).

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If people want to join a class, they can call Judi Berdis for the 9:30 am class at 707-972-7070; Annie Waters for the 11 am class at 707-888-2449; Bruce Yoxall for the 12:30 pm class at 707-354-0909; and Judy Dunbar for the 5:30 pm class at 707-841-7657.

Blue Zones held a raffle and gave away \$50 Turtle Island Tacos certificates and \$20 certificates for Brickhouse Coffee. Both of these food purveyors are Blue Zones certified. One free raffle ticket was gifted to anyone who signed up for the Blue Zones mailing list.

Turtle Island Tacos provided several dining options in the parking lot. Beer and wine were donated by Northspur Brewing Co. and Frey Winery. Marcos De Fluri with Ancestor Radio took care of the lighting and sound. All the costs were covered by sponsors Blue Zones and Adventist Health, so all the proceeds went directly to the Pool Club.

The rest of Pond | From page 5

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Brookside Registration Open

Brookside Elementary TK / Kindergarten registration is now open. To register go to www.willitsunified.com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2024; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025.

Inscripción abierta en Brookside

La inscripción para TK / Kindergarten de Brookside Elementary va está abierta. Para registrarse, vaya a www.willitsunified.com.

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Indoor Yard Sale

Giant Indoor Yard Sale - Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broller). **Saturday, April 13 - 8 am to 4 pm**

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Friday evenings, time & location TBD, Alex Jones and The War Room. Propaganda Analysis, Citizen Action Network, American Development League, Lucifer's Bane: Church of Christian Mystics. 707-841-0149

The rest of Sports | From page 8

JV Lady Wolverines also brought in a head-to-head, high-scoring win against Laytonville! The final score was 27-24. They are a small, but mighty team, full of determination, and are always ready to play ball! Our beloved Cari Stiles' memory was strongly felt on the field. We know she would be proud!

Come down to the WHS Softball Field on Friday, April 5 at 4 pm to support these girls in their next home game!

BGMS Girls Wrestling

Baechtel Grove Middle School wrestlers attended the 18th Annual California Junior High School Wrestling State Championship Tournament at Ukiah High School on March 30. It was a powerful day of girls wrestling. There were many hard-fought battles, elating wins, and a few losses that were so nicely wrestled by each girl that you can only see them as great tools and examples for learning.

Macy Harbour, Sophia Whitman, and Allaya Knight may have come up short of medals today, but they had matches to be extremely proud of. They were aggressive and showed skill. A big congratulations to the four girls taking home medals in their respective weight classes.

Payton Shull placed second in the 112 weight class. Arabella Mondo placed second in the 103 weight class. Paizley Dockins placed third in the 89 weight class. Mia Chavez placed third in the 155 weight class. You ladies displayed great strength, skill and tenacity in your placement rounds. It was an amazing day of wrestling with exciting matches. It was a great accomplishment to take home the third-place trophy as a team.

Coaches Matt Moratti and Wayne Shull instill a lot of life skills, put in a lot of time and heart into their team. We wish a speedy recovery to Lilly Glass with her late-season injury, and look forward to seeing her on the mat next year! Congratulations on a great year BGMS!

"I feel like we had a very successful day at Girls State!" said Head Coach Matt Moratti. "There were some high-pressure moments today, especially for those girls who made it to the finals. I am super proud of how they rose to the occasion and handled the pressure in those moments. So many life lessons on the mat. Overall, the girls improved tremendously throughout the season. The girls team has been developing as one of the most consistent and successful girls teams in the North Coast as evidenced by our showing here at California Girls State the last three years. We have finished first, second, and this year third as a team out of 44 teams."



At left, from top: Congratulations to the Soroptimist International of Willits' 2024 Live Your Dream Award winners Malissa Donegan, Christine Thrilkill, and Kimberley Silva. Above, right: Third District Supervisor John Haschak joined the SIW for the ceremony and smiled alongside SIW members, from left: Heidi, Vicki, Marilyn, Kitty, Barbara, Raghdha and Marie. Below: The 2024 phone book which helped fund the prizes for the Live Your Dream Award.



Photos submitted by Soroptimist International of Willits



The rest of **Flytrap** | From page 1

They also need to be kept in a sunny place, 6 hours of direct light. This can be accomplished on a sunny windowsill, indoors under grow lights, or by planting them outside. They also require a dormancy period over winter, offsetting their warm-weather growing period. When left outdoors, this happens naturally, and the plants can sustain temperatures ranging from 30 degrees to 90 degrees. They can also take a few days of extreme weather, nights with freezing temps or even tolerate a few hot 100-degree plus days.

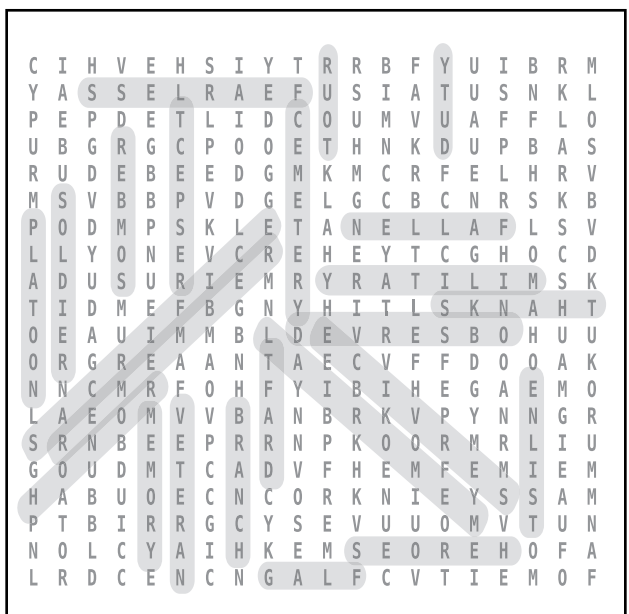
If grown in the cozy, temp-controlled indoor method where they won't naturally achieve dormancy due to the weather, or if they're outside in areas where temps get below 20 degrees potentially killing the plant, there's options to provide a gentle dormancy experience including leaving the plant in an unheated room/garage where temps get to 50-60 degrees at night, then back to its sunny place after temperatures increase. You can also keep them outdoors, but mulch a thick 4-inch layer on top of the plants, or you can also remove plants from their pots, and refrigerate the plants from October to February, checking to retain moisture levels and repotting in February.

Potting the plants into four parts fertilizer-free peat moss to one-part perlite is the recommended mix from California Carnivores.

Outdoor traps will catch all the food they need, and those kept indoors near a sufficient crop of susceptible flies will manage without external feedings, but it is possible to also offer food for the traps to digest – live prey is needed, and meal worms recommended, as the traps need the movement from their food to stimulate the nutrient absorption process.

Also, as tempting as it can be, don't try and poke the traps, setting off their closure response. They use lots of energy to close the traps quickly to catch prey, and only have a small finite number of closes before the stem and trap die off.

These are really great plants, and fun to watch as they do their work. Check local stores to see when they're in stock, or check out the online ordering at www.CaliforniaCarnivores.com



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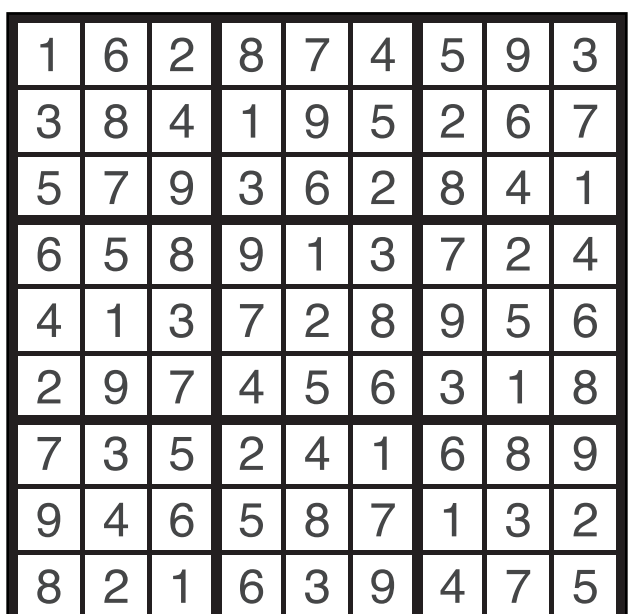
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At right: Soroptimist International of Willits' Kitty Norris, left, and Vicki Ham, right, stand with Live Your Dream award recipients, from left: Malissa Donegan, Christine Thrilkill, and Kimberley Silva at the recent awards ceremony.

Living their Dream

Soroptimist International of Willits awards three women with cash awards funded by phone book ad sales

Submitted by Vicki Ham, for Soroptimist International of Willits

Soroptimist International of Willits is proud to have been able to award the Live Your Dream Award this year to three deserving women in our community with a grant for \$1,000. The 2024 recipients include Malissa Donegan, Christine Thrilkill, and Kimberley Silva.

This is the signature program of Soroptimist International of the Americas, and this award is given to a woman who meets the qualifications of three criteria:

- She is the major breadwinner in her family (head of household)
- She has dependents (children, elderly parents, disabled spouse)
- She must be furthering her education and attending school



Photos submitted by Soroptimist International of Willits

Many women awarded have faced obstacles such as poverty, abuse, addiction, emotional issues, etc. Live Your Dream Award recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

It is an honor for us to be part of their successful journeys towards personal empowerment and financial betterment through education.

We were able to give three awards this year because of

the generous merchants in our community who advertised in our Willits Community Phonebook. This is our major fundraiser and is our way of giving back to the community, not just through the awards, but providing the community with a phonebook such that does not exist in most towns because of the internet and technology. We not only give to these women, but also give back to our town.

For more information on our awards or joining our club, feel free to contact Vicki Ham, Founder Region Governor, or any SI/Willits club member. Our email address is siwillits@soroptimist.net.

At left: Recipients of the 2024 Live Your Dream award smile with SIW members Kitty Norris, left, and Vicki Ham, right, including from top: Kimberley Silva, Malissa Donegan and Christine Thrilkill.

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Above: Boys teams competing in the Willits Invitational Basketball Tournament pose for a photo after the games.



At right: Players attempt to block a shot during the Willits Invitational Basketball Tournament. At left: The girls take to the court during the Willits Invitational Basketball Tournament.



March Madness

Willits Invitational Basketball Tournament now in its second year, inaugural year for girls teams

By Colby Friend for Willits Invitational

The Willits community was treated to some March Madness of its very own as the fourth / fifth-grade boys faced off in a NCAA-style basketball tournament on March 9, and fourth / fifth-grade girls played their tournament on March 10. This is the second year of the annual Willits Invitational Basketball Tournament, a tourney sponsored by the BGMS PTO that draws the best teams from the fourth / fifth-grade divisions playing in the Ukiah Rec League.

Because Willits does not have enough teams to have a league of their own, Willits teams usually form and play in the Ukiah Rec League. This year Willits was well represented in the league with three boys teams and two girls teams in the fourth / fifth-grade division. All Willits teams played in the Willits Invitational.

In the boys tournament, eight teams played in a single elimination bracket. The day was full of spectacular skills demonstrated by the young ballers. One special highlight was a near half-court shot by Ridge Laughlin that banked in at the buzzer of the first half in the first game of the day.

Of the Willits teams, Mendo Mill played a great game but lost in the first round. The other Willits teams, Mendo Forest Products and Ojeda Transport won two games each to advance to the championship game. Top-seeded Mendo FP had not lost a game all year, cruising through the Ukiah competition.

Ojeda Transport had provided some of the stiffest competition Mendo FP had faced, but had lost to Mendo FP during the regular season. The rematch in the championship of the Willits Invitational was a much-anticipated contest by the Willits community close to the teams.

Both teams played their heart out, and blood, sweat and tears were shed in the contest. Ojeda Transport was able to avenge their earlier loss, winning the tournament and the 2024 Champs Medal. It was an emotional win as there were many friends across the two squads.

After the game, in a great show of sportsmanship, the two teams met at center court to exchange hugs, handshakes, and to take pictures together. The in-town competition throughout the season and even dating back to last year pushes both squads to be better.

For the girls tournament on Sunday, it was the inaugural year. The BGMS PTO had tested the interest level by organizing the boys tournament in 2023. The enthusiasm was so great that the PTO decided to expand to feature a girls tournament as well and changed the venue to the bigger Willits High School Gym.

Four girls teams attended in this inaugural year. Two of the teams were from Willits and were both sponsored by J.D. Redhouse. One of the J.D. Redhouse teams won both of its games to advance to the championship game. They played Liz Vazquez / Selzer Realty of Ukiah, a team that they had already played an exciting comeback game against earlier in the day.

In the championship Liz Vazquez was able to defeat J.D. Redhouse to take home the medals. It was an amazing effort by all the girls involved. The day also featured an exhibition game of sixth / seventh / eighth-grade Willits boys against the Dragons of the Ten Thousand Buddhas. The Willits boys were able to squeeze out a close win 37-35 in an exciting game.

"The amount of skill, heart and stamina on display by these young basketballers is tremendous," commented tournament coordinator Colby Friend. "It's a great show! And the proceeds earned from the tournament go to support the efforts of the BGMS PTO.

"Many of the parents and coaches thanked us for putting this together, so people must be pretty pleased with what we're doing," said Friend. "We hope to keep building the annual event. Special thanks to PTO President Diana Hernandez for her tremendous effort in putting on the event."

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The rest of **Brooktrails** | From page 1

between Director Joanne Cavallari and Jones regarding questions about specific funds and Jones answered her questions and clarified matters. General Manager Tamara Alaniz said, "Mr. Jones has been working terrifically with our new finance officer, Mr. Sims, and I anticipate this year that we will make some solid financial progress."

Next up on the agenda: Consideration of Resolution 2024-01 Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into Agreement #D2305003 for a Water Recycling Funding Program Planning Grant.

For some background: Brooktrails Township CSD is a junior appropriate water rights holder with hundreds of more senior appropriate rights holders downstream along the Eel River surface water system. Water districts with a single source of supply have received outreach from the State Water Resources Control Board, encouraging alternative sourcing and local interties for water supply.

Competition for state funding of water recycling and reuse is becoming tighter than ever. The state has significantly increased the availability of water recycling reuse funding and has awarded Brooktrails \$500,000 for a Planning Study, to show their commitment to implementing resiliency strategies in smaller districts. With this funding, the state is helping Brooktrails water supply to become more resilient.

Alaniz stated: "This is a really big deal. We have recently received notification regarding the funding agreement, and I want to specifically talk about the project which is a water reuse project for Brooktrails. That is a water recycling plant that can operate and take waste water and treat the waste water and then we can reuse that treated waste water as an additional source of supply."

The State Water Resources Control Board has reached out to the district on a number of occasions in the last three years, Alaniz said, "when there's been much focus and money on consolidation of districts interties between districts, and redundancy in sources of supply. Brooktrails has one source of supply and that's our surface water reservoirs, Lake Emily and Lake Ada Rose, that get filled with precipitation and creeks and runoff.

"This district has done exploratory work in the past to try to obtain groundwater sources that did not produce. There were discussions between Denise Rose and Adrienne Moore at the City of Willits before I was here about what it would look like to potentially intertie with the Willits system, which could be a good project as well.

"The difference between what I see as the benefits of this project in comparison to the

benefits of an intertie with the City of Willits is sustainability," Alaniz continued "Intertie with the City of Willits would mean a pipeline and pumps to pump water uphill for five miles. When you look at the cost of a project like that compared to reusing the water that we have here, they are really not comparable. This project is far and away more beneficial to the community than an intertie. An intertie isn't a guaranteed supply because an intertie is a potential emergency source of water. It wouldn't mean that we'd be getting water from the City of Willits to integrate into our supply for our normal demand. What this project could do is make things better for the future for Brooktrails.

"There are 1,550 customers paying for our system. Costs have increased every year, and I don't foresee a long term viability with 1,550 people paying for the system in perpetuity."

Alaniz went on to note that there are 3,500 total lots and homesite/connections identified in Brooktrails' specific plan that cannot be supported at this time. "To support these several things are needed: 1) the second access road which we are optimistic with state funding and the county's and our supervisor's support is moving forward. 2) Fiber-optic broadband expansion. There are many dead zones in our community and that impacts the quality of life. Individuals that want to work at home are unable to do so successfully at this time. Broadband expansion will enable people to work from home. The county has staff working to obtain significant grant funds to bring broadband to Brooktrails."

A major part of the Planning Study will be the evaluation of alternatives: for the location of the water recycling plant, for the distribution of the new water source, and alternative treatment scenarios to ensure that the recycled water isn't harmful to the existing distribution system, always of the highest quality and safe to drink.

By agreeing to enter into the funding agreement, the district will be responsible for contracting with an engineering firm to develop the Planning Study. There will be a formal bidding process by development of a Request for Proposals. The significant funding amount of up to \$500,000 will bring qualified bidders to the table, to work for the community.

May 3, 2024 is the deadline set for qualified engineering firms to submit proposals. The scope of work is set with a draft project plan submitted due by November 30, 2024.

The board discussed the plan and all remarked that it was an awesome plan for the future of Brooktrails. The board then unanimously approved Resolution 2024-01 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement for a Water Recycling Funding Program Planning Grant.

The rest of **Fire** | From page 1

At 1:16 am, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office put out a "Situational Awareness" alert via Nixle, warning Willits locals signed up for the alerts about the fire. That was soon followed, at 1:24 am, with an "Evacuation Warning" for "Structure Fire in the WILLITS area, PINEVIEW DR, CREST DR, MEADOWBROOK DR, & SHERWOOD HILL DR."

"Be ready to evacuate at any moment, gather your belongings, check on your neighbors and leave early if possible. Please avoid the area," the alert stated.

The Sheriff's Office cancelled the evacuation warning at 2:39 am.

The focus when firefighters first arrived, Alvarez said, was "to protect those exposures so we didn't get any further extension to the houses.... The priority was to protect the structures around the fire... and then we focused on taking the heat out of the main [double-wide], to cool it down.

In addition to Little Lake Fire personnel, CAL FIRE, Ridgewood Ranch, Brooktrails and Redwood Valley fire departments all responded to the middle-of-the-night call. Chief Alvarez said there were "probably between 15 and 18 firefighters" on scene.

He conveyed Little Lake Fire's special thanks for the additional engines and support from neighboring fire departments.

Chief Alvarez confirmed, when firefighters arrived, neighbors on both sides of the fire were using hoses "trying to help and to cool their areas down."

A Go Fund Me page has been set up for the Mendoza family, who lost their home and belongings due to the fire. "If you can spare anything to help them get back on their feet, it would mean the world to them. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated during this tough time." Donate, share the link, or check progress – about \$3,000 has been raised already – at www.gofundme.com/f/house-fire-relief-for-naomi-her-family

Thanks were especially due to firefighters who, after they were called out to the fire, were called to a major-injury collision accident occurring around 1:38 am, on Highway 101, mile marker 44, on the Willits bypass.

California Highway Patrol has not yet issued a press release on this incident, but mendofever.com reported that Officer Olegario Marin of CHP's Ukiah Office said the accident involved "a truck tractor-trailer" that crashed into a passenger van stationary in the traffic lane without any lights on. The truck's driver escaped without injury, but the occupant of the van sustained major life-threatening injuries, and was airlifted to Chico's Enloe Hospital for medical treatment.

The rest of **Cubbison** | From page 1

In his brief court filing, Eyster offered no reasons for removing himself from the prosecution of a case that rocked Mendocino politics and embroiled Eyster in the most severe political crisis of his 13-year tenure.

Last fall, Eyster filed a single felony charge of misappropriation of funds against Cubbison and Kennedy, two longtime county employees he accused of using an obscure pay code so Kennedy could collect about \$68,000 in extra pay during the COVID pandemic. Cubbison and Kennedy contend the pay was for work related to sick leave and overtime. Cubbison, who was assistant auditor when the alleged misappropriation occurred, contends the extra pay was authorized by now-retired Auditor Lloyd Weer. Kennedy claims Cubbison authorized the use of the pay code but never put that in writing.

Cubbison's attorney, Chris Andrian of Santa Rosa, dismisses any criminal intent, arguing that the DA has presented no evidence that the suspended auditor-treasurer personally benefitted from the extra money paid to Kennedy.

Eyster's move to hire an outside prosecutor is unexpected because, in January, the DA successfully fought a defense bid to recuse him from the case because of his past conflicts with the auditor over his asset forfeiture spending practices.

Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder, at the time, denied the defense motion, saying the evidence presented during a recusal hearing was "too thin." The state Attorney General's Office, which typically opposes moves to recuse local DAs in disputed cases, backed Eyster.

Eyster's decision to hire an outside prosecutor is the latest twist in a politically charged case involving two elected county officials, some members of the county board of

Mendocino County Superior Court plans to launch a juror compliance program

Posted by Mendocino County Superior Court

Since jury trials have resumed post-pandemic, the number of individuals honoring their summons and appearing for jury duty has declined to an alarmingly low percentage. In a few instances, trials could not go forward because the number of potential jurors was insufficient to empanel a jury. Therefore, the Mendocino County Superior Court is planning to implement a juror compliance program that will ensure that the number of potential jurors is sufficient to allow trials to be conducted.

Mendocino Superior Court Jury Commissioner Kim Turner states: "The lack of response by potential jurors is alarming and impacts our ability to adjudicate cases, especially criminal cases. This situation has become so dire the court has no choice but to set up a compliance program that will compel a better rate of response from potential jurors."

California law requires that trial courts in each county reach out to their community members to serve on jury duty. However, over the past several years, the number of eligible jurors that have chosen to disregard their jury summons notification has increased significantly. Serving on a jury is an important civic duty of all U.S. citizens that are between the ages of 18 and 75 and that are not eligible for an exemption due to a medical condition, inability to communicate in English, caregiving for an ill or disabled family member, or caring for a young child.

In Mendocino, the court may call jurors as often as once a year. However, the court is on a one-day, one trial jury system, which means that if a juror is called, appears for jury duty, and is not assigned to a trial, the juror will be excused for at least the next 12 months. Even if sent to a courtroom for possible empanelment, jurors have an opportunity to tell the judge if they have financial or travel hardships that make it difficult to serve on a trial. In many instances, judges excuse those jurors from service.

Jury duty is not just an obligation; it is a chance to participate in a meaningful way in the Mendocino community. In fact, most people who serve on a jury report that the experience was worthwhile – interesting and a rare opportunity to participate in ensuring a fair and impartial outcome for defendants, victims, and the general public.

California Code of Civil Procedure section 209 gives courts the authority to impose sanctions on individuals that fail to show up for jury duty. In the next few months, the court will reach out to potential jurors that do not respond to their summons to encourage them to reschedule their service for a later date.

If that outreach is not successful, the court will send one more urgent request that the juror comply with the legal requirement to serve.

If that second attempt is not successful, the court will send notices to jurors to appear in front of a judge to explain why they did not respond to these repeated notices. At that hearing, a judge may order the juror to appear on the next date when jurors are needed or may fine the juror up to \$1,500 for failure to comply with this civic duty.

Presiding Judge Keith Faulder states, "I would much rather potential jurors honor their commitment and appear for jury duty than sanction them for failure to take this obligation seriously."

The evolution of the right to an impartial jury of one's peers reaches all the way back to the Magna Carta in 1215 AD. While the Magna Carta did not institute the jury system we know today, it introduced the concept that community members needed to be a part of the judicial process to ensure fairness and prevent the king's dominion of the courts.

Jury duty is also enshrined in the U.S. Constitution in Articles 6 and 7. The framers of the Constitution considered the fundamental right to an impartial jury to be one of the cornerstones of self-governance in our new Republic. This important feature of our system of government must be perpetuated and should be honored and respected by all.

The rest of **Guilty** | From page 1

supervisors, and county administrators who tipped the DA off to the payroll discrepancies. Eyster's decision to prosecute Cubbison triggered an uproar, embroiling the DA in the most severe crisis yet to his 13-year tenure.

Besides fighting the criminal case, Cubbison has filed a civil lawsuit accusing the county supervisors of denying her due process and damaging her professional reputation after the board abruptly suspended her within days of the DA filing his criminal charges without offering her an opportunity to respond.

Eyster's hiring of an outside prosecutor now is raising questions about whether a preliminary hearing scheduled for April 190 for Cubbison and Kennedy can proceed.

Carrillo, however, said last week she is prepared to proceed with the hearing.

"Unless the defense requests more time or wants time to discuss the case with me as I get up to speed, I intend to be ready," she said. "I look forward to fully reviewing, evaluating, and assessing the case and presenting the evidence in court if it is unable to be resolved prior to the hearing."

Carrillo was a deputy district attorney in Riverside County before taking a similar position in Sonoma County in 2008. Until leaving the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office in 2015, Carrillo was a senior trial prosecutor managing high-profile and complex trials, including a four-defendant gang murder case.

In 2017 Carrillo left the Sonoma County DA's Office and opened a private practice before joining the Santa Rosa law firm of Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller, and Moskowitz.

(Mike Geniella is a veteran North Coast journalist and former DA spokesman who worked part-time under contract until he terminated the arrangement in November 2021.)

Harmful Matter (Pornography) to a Minor Child on or between September 1, 2023 and September 22, 2023 (same timeframe; separate act/crime); and

- Contacting a Minor Child on or between September 1, 2023 and September 22, 2023 With The Specific Intent of Committing a Sexual Offense Against Said Minor.

After the jurors were excused, the defendant's case was referred to the Adult Probation Department for a background investigation of the defendant and for the preparation of a written sentencing recommendation.

The defendant was ordered to be brought from the Sheriff's Low Gap jail facility to Department A in the Ukiah Courthouse on April 25, 2024 at 9 am for the formal sentencing hearing.

The law enforcement agency that investigated and developed the evidence relied on at trial to secure the convictions was the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Additional trial preparation and support was provided by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

A special thank you is extended to Professor Mindy Mechanic, a clinical psychologist who was called to testify during this week's trial as an expert witness on trauma and victimization and how children react to same in the context of a sexual assault case. Dr. Mechanic regularly testifies in courts of law on issues of counterintuitive victim behavior involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

The prosecutor who presented the People's evidence to the jury was Senior Deputy District Attorney Eloise Kelsey.

Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Keith Faulder presided over the five-day trial. Judge Faulder will be the sentencing judge on April 25.



Smokey



Ducky



Trudy

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Affectionate Smokey

With boyishness and charm in equal measure, Smokey is a gentle giant who is eager to find a loving home where he can share his affectionate nature and adventurous spirit. He is a large presence that captures the attention of all he meets, and beneath his powerful exterior lies a friendly and social character!

Smokey thrives on human companionship and loves nothing more than being surrounded by people, showering them with affection and tail wags that can move mountains. Smokey will need adopters who are experienced and confident in handling large breeds. Consistent training, gentle guidance, and positive reinforcement will help

him channel his strength appropriately, ensuring that he remains a well-behaved and lovable companion.

With his friendly demeanor and love for both hiking and lounging, he'll add a special touch of warmth and happiness to your life!!

To learn more about Smokey, or to view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 459-4900.

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, is open to the public from noon to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday and 10 am to 3 pm (closed for lunch from 1 to 1:30 pm) on Saturdays. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter.com. Call 707-467-6453 for more information.

Friendly Trudy

Trudy is a fun loving youngster that always likes to have something to do. She will happily be your best friend and can live with other cats too! Trudy can be found playing or flopped over, waiting for you to give her some love.

Trudy has spent most of her life in the shelter! It's her time to find her forever home.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Feel free to visit us, no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out all of our available dogs and cats on our website: www.mendohumane.org, on our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Sweet Ducky

Ducky is a lovely dog and would make a great addition to any family! She is friendly with people and tested well with other dogs. In fact, we think she would love to have a canine friend in her new home! After a nice walk, she settled nicely and enjoyed lying at the feet of our staff members. We think she could use some basic obedience, but whoever ends up with this gal will sure be one lucky duck!

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OBITUARY |

Michael Lawson

Michael Lawson, beloved son, father, and grandfather, passed away on March 10, 2024, in Willits, California. Originally from Hayward, California, Michael was born on December 3, 1957, to Edwin Lawson and Marjorie Lawson Casey. The youngest of four children. Michael lived and raised his family in Carson City, Nevada for 32 years before retiring to Willits to live with his daughter and grandchildren.



Michael is survived by his two daughters, Stephany Lawson and Margy Lawson Michels. He was preceded in death by his son Michael Lawson.

Michael was a devoted family man who cherished spending time with his loved ones. He was a proud grandfather to his 10 grandchildren, who brought him immense joy and happiness throughout his life. Dominic, Mia, Michael, Kaya, Maybelline, Steven, IzaBella, Dylilah, Phoenix, and Hendrix.

Aside from being a dedicated family man, Michael had a passion for spending time outdoors. He loved barbecuing. He was a compassionate dog lover. And he enjoyed his strolls on his scooter around town. Michael was known to be a kind man with a smile always on his face.

OBITUARY |

Arthur Tuttle

Arthur Eugene Tuttle, "Yogi," 72, born and raised in Covelo, passed away in Willits, California, on March 23, 2024, at his home.



Yogi was a devoted husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend. He loved mechanic-ing, performance engines, trucking, tractor pulls, mud boggs, hunting, fishing, and American Indian history. He was always willing to help no matter the situation or who needed help.

He is survived by his wife, Marie, two daughters Aleshia and Natalie, brother Robert (Rabbit), and sisters Karla and Twiggie. He is also survived by grandchildren Meranda, Cody, and Jenna and great-granddaughter Harper, and numerous nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by mother Angie and father Arthur (Tut) and stepfather James, brothers Doug and Leonard, nephew Teven, and niece Sierra.

Services were held Saturday, March 30 at the Methodist Church in Covelo, with graveside services at Namlaki Cemetery following.

A Reception at the Round Valley Tribes Buffalo Room followed the grave-side services.

Tragically, Michael lost his battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

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TK-Kindergarten Registration Now Open

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Para registrar a su estudiante ve a www.willitsunified.com

Kindergarten - age 5 by September 1, 2024
Transitional Kindergarten - age 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025
Kinder - 5 años antes de Septiembre 1, 2024
Trancision de Kinder - 5 años en medio de Septiembre 2, 2024 a Junio 2, 2025

Once you have completed the online registration, please bring the following documents to Brookside:

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- Immunization records
- Registros de inmunización (vacunas)

If you have any questions please call the Brookside office at (707) 459-5385 or visit our Website at www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Brookside al (707) 459-5385 or visite nuestro sitio web www.willitsunified.com/o/brookside